

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MONTANA STATEHOOD 2007 CENTENNIAL BELL AWARD

SPONSORED BY:

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SUPPORTED IN PART BY:

The Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena

PURPOSE:

To honor the Montana History Teacher of the Year. The award alternates between teachers of grades 7-8 (even years) and grades 4-5 (odd numbered years.)

FURTHER PURPOSE:

To perpetuate the awareness of Montana Statehood Day. On November 8, 1989, at the Montana Statehood Centennial Celebration, the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell was permanently installed in the Montana State Capitol by an act of the Montana State Legislature. At that ceremony, Governor Stan Stephens rang the bell at 10:40 a.m., the exact minute Montana officially became the 41st state in 1889. Thousands of Montana men, women and children joined in the ringing of individual bells for 60 seconds. The Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award program seeks to make an annual event of this historic moment by honoring Montana teachers who have made a significant contribution to their students' understanding and appreciation of Montana history.

ENTRY:

In 2007, Montana history teachers of grades 4-5 are eligible to enter. Congratulations! You have been nominated by your principal for this honor. You are asked to collect a portfolio of material reflecting your approach to teaching Montana history during the 2006-2007 school year, including unit plans, photos of projects, examples of student work (essays, artwork) and other relevant items. Two letters of endorsement, one from your principal and one from a student, are also requested. Entries will be judged on student participation, originality, inclusion of Montana's cultural diversity, community history, and an overview of Montana's history.

PRIZE:

The winning teacher and his or her class will travel to Helena for a ceremony at the State Capitol and will ring the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell for 60 seconds on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 10:40 a.m. in recognition of Statehood Day. The teacher will receive a plaque and \$1,000 from the Montana News Stations for the purchase of Montana history materials for his or her school library and to provide reimbursement for lunch and bus mileage. The teacher will also receive \$250 from the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers for the purchase of additional Montana history materials.

DEADLINE:

Entries should be postmarked no later than **June 15, 2007**, and sent to:
Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award
3233 3rd Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

SELECTION:

A distinguished panel of Montana history advocates will make the final selection of the winner. Finalists will receive certificates of recognition signed by Governor Brian Schweitzer and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch. All entries will be placed in the Montana Historical Society archives in Helena.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Norma Ashby, Bell Award Coordinator, at (406) 453-7078 or norma@in-tch.com.

BELL AWARD

April 11, 2007

To: Montana Elementary School Principals
From: Norma Ashby, Coordinator, Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award
Re: Bell Award Nominations

Greetings!

We invite you to nominate a 4th or 5th grade teacher in your school who you think has done and is doing an exemplary job teaching Montana history during the 2006-2007 school year.

I look forward to receiving your nomination by April 25, 2007. A nomination card is enclosed. For your convenience you may email your nominee's name to me at: norma@in-tch.com.

All nominees will receive an entry form May 1, 2007 with the deadline for returning their entry June 15, 2007. We have simplified the entry, requiring only a portfolio of materials used by the teacher and two letters of endorsement, one from yourself and one from a student of the nominated teacher.

The winner will be given the 18th Annual Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award as the Montana History Teacher of the Year. The prize is a plaque and \$1,250 to provide the purchase of Montana history materials for his or her school library, reimbursement for lunch and bus mileage.

The winner and his or her class will travel to Helena on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007 for the Award ceremony and to ring the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell in the State Capitol in recognition of Statehood Day.

All finalists will receive certificates of recognition signed by the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sponsored by News Stations, KRTV, Great Falls; KXLF, Butte; KPAX, Missoula; and KTVQ, Billings, and the Sons & Daughters of Montana Pioneers in cooperation with the Office of Public Instruction in Helena, this is an exciting program which recognizes outstanding teachers and gives students an opportunity to experience history in action.

Thank you for making this program a success. I look forward to receiving your nomination by April 25.

If you have any questions call me at (406) 453-7078 or email me at: norma@in-tch.com.